

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REPORTS

OF THE

TOWN OF WESTON,

FOR

THE YEAR ENDING

March 31, 1863.

BOSTON:

J. M. HEWES, PRINTER, 81 CORNHILL.

1863.

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OF THE

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1863.

TOWN OFFICERS

SERVING FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1864.

SELECTMEN,

ALONZO S. FISKE, INCREASE LEADBETTER, JR.
HORACE HEWS.

—

OVERSEERS OF POOR,

ALONZO S. FISKE, EDWARD COBURN,
MARSHALL CUTTING.

—

SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

C. H. TOPLIFF, 3 years, NATHAN HAGAR, 1 year,
EDWIN HOBBS, 2 years.

—

LIBRARY COMMITTEE,

OTIS E. HUNT, C. H. TOPLIFF,
NAHUM SMITH.

—

ASSESSORS,

ALONZO S. FISKE, BENJAMIN PEIRCE, JR.
ABIJAH COBURN.

—

SURVEYORS OF HIGHWAYS,

MARSHALL S. UPHAM, Dist. 1.	ALONZO S. FISKE, Dist. 4.
LUTHER S. UPHAM,	STEPHEN SEAVERNS, "5.
ELI E. BEMIS,	SAMUEL F. CLARK, "6.

—

TOWN CLERK,

NATHAN HAGAR,

TREASURER,

HORACE HEWS.

—

COLLECTOR,

HORACE HEWS.

—

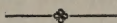
CONSTABLES,

HORACE HEWS, GEORGE W. CUTTING, JR.

REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN OF WESTON.



THE Selectmen of the Town of Weston, for the year ending March 2d, 1862, submit the following report on guide posts.

Guide posts are maintained at the following places, viz. :—Near the houses of Abijah Gregory, Nathan Hagar, John Williams, Charles Warren, William M. Roberts, David Viles, Keziah Brackett, John A. Lamson, George Sparhawk, Charles White, John Coburn, Isaac Jones, Charles Cutter, Otis A. Kingsbury and George W. Cutting; near Starr's Bridge and near the school-house in District No. 6.

We do not think it necessary to maintain them at any other places in said town.

The above is the only report which the Selectmen are by law required to make, but in view of the unprecedented scenes and transactions of the past year, we feel that the town will expect, and that it is our duty to lay before it, a condensed report of the doings and transactions of the year that is past. The great and engrossing subject of public attention has been the war, and the raising of men and means for carrying it on; and it is with pleasure we are able to report that enough of our citizens and inhabitants have freely and patriotically volunteered in the service of their country to fill the quota assigned to the town. The whole number called for from Weston was 67, credit being given for all those enlisting for three years, since the commencement of the

war. Of this number, 38 have enlisted for three years, or during the war; 17 of that number have received the bounty voted by the town, 29 have enlisted for nine months, 27 of whom have been paid the bounty, making 44 in all who have received it. The number liable to do military duty, as returned by the Assessors, was 174; by additions at the Adjutant General's Office, of those in the service, it was increased to 183; by exemptions, in the manner by law made and provided, it was reduced to 125, and the rate of all able-bodied men throughout the State required to fill the quota, was 54 per cent., consequently, every exempt was a saving to the town, in a pecuniary sense, of \$100; or if there had been no exemptions, our quota would have been 99, or 32 more men than we have already furnished.

The amount paid in bounties has been \$8,700; for recruiting expenses, \$154.63. The amount expended in bringing home the bodies of deceased soldiers, and for the comfort of the sick and wounded, is \$273.68, making in all, \$9,128.31 expended on account of the war. Of this amount, \$2,400 have been borrowed for three years, at 5 per cent.; \$3,500 for 5 years, at 5 per cent.; and \$2,485 have been paid the volunteers, in notes of the Treasurer on demand, with 6 per cent. interest, and the balance have been paid from the Treasury.

By the Treasurer's Report of 1862, the indebtedness of the town was \$5,500, consequently, the whole liabilities of the town at the present time are about \$14,000. For the exact state of its finances you are referred to the forthcoming Treasurer's Report.

The amount paid as State Aid up to Jan. 1st, 1863, is \$424.77, which sum is to be reimbursed by the State, by deducting from the State Tax of the present year. Aid has been allowed to the families of 15 volunteers, comprehending 26 individuals, and, at the present time, we are paying about \$100 per month. And here we would state that for the year 1861 we paid, as our proportion of the State Tax, for the aid of families of volunteers \$700, whereas we did not pay out one cent to our own volunteers; and for the year 1862 our proportion of the amount disbursed by the State is about \$2,500, while we have paid out only \$424,

leaving rising \$2,100 to be paid by this town, as aid to the families of volunteers in other towns and cities of the Commonwealth. The whole amount for which orders have been drawn the present year is \$13,710.73, of which the sum of \$9,128.31, as previously stated, has been for expenses incidental to the war, \$875.59 on account of highways, \$1,796.08 for schools, and the balance for the support of the poor, interest on the town debt and incidental expenses of the town, for all the items of which, you are referred to the Annual Report of the Treasurer.

The whole amount raised by taxation for the year 1862, was \$8,175.94 for Town, County and State purposes, including highway tax.

Valuation of real estate, \$541,416. Valuation of personal estate, \$446,384. Total valuation of the Town, \$987,800.

The total rate per cent. of taxation the past year was \$7.47 per \$1,000.

Although the sum of our indebtedness looks, and is large, yet, when we take into consideration our valuation, as compared with other towns and cities of the State, with the amount of our debt, we have reason to congratulate ourselves that it is no larger, and although our National and State taxes must and will be heavy, yet, with a due regard to economy in town affairs, we believe that the burden of taxation will fall as lightly upon us as upon any part of the community in the State or nation at large.

ALONZO S. FISKE,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
INCREASE LEADBETTER, JR.,	
SIMEON W. BROWN,	
	<i>of</i>
	<i>Weston.</i>

HORACE HEWS.

Advertisement

Balance in the Treasury, March 31, 1862,	\$645 62
Sundry Loans,	11,185 00
State of Massachusetts, School Fund,	46 08
Joel Upham, liquor agent,	13 08
Nathan Hagar, dog licenses,	16 00
Rent of town hall,	37 75
Simeon W. Brown, for old hearse-house,	2 00
D. N. Freeman, for burial lot,	50
Back interest paid,	1 01
Simeon W. Brown, Collector, Taxes, 1861,	313 54
Horace Hews, " " 1862,	7,812 24
	<hr/> \$20,072 82

Public schools,	1,796	08
Repairs of town buildings,	85	53
Roads and bridges,	875	59
Support of poor,	595	16
State tax,	2,034	00
County tax,	835	79
Loans and interest,	2,477	08
Incidental expenses,	918	29
Services of town officers,	471	13
Volunteers and their families,	9,747	08
Balance in the treasury,	237	09
	<u>\$20,072</u>	82

ITEMS of Expenditure under the several heads.

FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Benjamin F. Morrison, teacher of High School, .	500 00	
Emily A. Weston, teacher, District No. 1, .	180 00	
H. Maria Jones, " " " 2, .	175 00	
Caroline A. Bruce, " " " 3, .	180 00	
D. Annie Partridge, " " " 4, .	190 00	
Charlotte S. Coburn, " " " 5, .	180 00	
Ellen M. Hoar, " " " 6, .	180 00	
Charles Dunn, for fuel,	122 00	
Nathan Hagar, "	15 00	
James E. Keyes, "	18 08	
Care of High School room,	14 00	
" " District school rooms,	42 00	
	<hr/>	\$1,796 08

FOR REPAIRS OF TOWN BUILDINGS.

Nathan Hagar, for repairs, and sundry items furnished school-house No. 4,	7 50	
Adolphus Bruce, shelves for library,	2 30	
Simeon W. Brown, lumber for hearse-house,	7 00	
Samuel Patch, Jr., for labor on " "	5 33	
F. Buttrick, lumber for fence at school-house No. 6,	7 26	
C. H. Topliff, sundry items for schools,	12 52	
Edward Peirce, gravel at town-house,	1 50	
George Neilson, stove funnel,	12 50	
School Committee, for repairs,	18 00	
C. H. Topliff, clock, window shades, and sundry items,	11 62	
	<hr/>	\$85 53

FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Marshall L. Upham, District No. 1,	239 24	
Luther S. Upham, " " 2,	107 21	
George W. Dunn, " " 3,	59 75	
Alonzo S. Fiske, " " 4,	155 80	
Stephen Seaverns, " " 5,	119 74	
Samuel F. Clark, " " 6,	77 47	
	<hr/>	\$759 21

For Extra Road Expenses.

Alonzo S. Fiske, for breaking out roads, and repairing culvert,	20 00	
Samuel H. Warren, railing road near his house,	2 00	
Marshall L. Upham, plough and scraper,	24 15	
George W. Dunn, breaking out roads,	8 25	
Stephen Seaverns, " " "	10 62	
Simeon W. Brown, railing for road, and plank for bridge,	48 61	
Samuel F. Clark, breaking out roads,	2 75	
	<hr/>	\$875 59

FOR SUPPORT OF POOR.

\$595 16

[For items, see Report of Overseers of Poor.]

FOR STATE TAX.

\$2,034 00

FOR COUNTY TAX.

\$835 79

FOR LOANS AND INTEREST.

George G. Cheney, loan and interest, . . .	154 04
Theodore Jones, " " " . . .	1,020 83
Estate of John Jones, " " " . . .	857 33
Weston Town Library, " . . .	78 00
Emily J. Coburn, " . . .	42 00
Harvard Bank, " . . .	60 00
A. H. Fiske, " . . .	147 50
Marshall Jones, " . . .	18 00
First Parish in Weston, . . .	18 00
Waltham Bank, . . .	15 38
Benjamin Peirce, . . .	66 00
	<hr/>
	\$2,477 08

FOR INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Increase Leadbetter, Jr., wood for town-house, . . .	5 00
J. M. Hewes, printing Annual Reports, . . .	63 12
Charles A. Brackett, rebinding library books, . . .	11 50
Crosby & Nichols, ink, . . .	3 00
Alonzo S. Fiske, order and record book, . . .	4 50
Town of Lincoln, tax for 1862, . . .	6 47
" " " war tax for 1862, . . .	2 74
F. A. Hews, for painting flagstaff, . . .	10 00
A. H. Fiske, trustee, abatement of tax, 1862, . . .	97 12
Ebenezer Tucker, " " " . . .	7 47
Estate of James Jones, " " " . . .	2 34
Oliver A. Roberts, " " " . . .	3 78
Percival A. Bruce, " " " . . .	2 53
Peter Burke, " " " . . .	2 53
H. W. Day, " " " . . .	2 53
Albert Floyd, " " " . . .	2 53
James M. Fairfield, " " " . . .	2 53
Jonas Sanderson, " " " . . .	2 99
Augustus Spinney, " " " . . .	2 53
F. A. Bush, " " 1861, . . .	62 19
William Clark, " " " . . .	1 98
Thomas J. Dodge, " " " . . .	1 98
Philip Edwards, " " " . . .	1 98
John Hurlbert, " " " . . .	1 98
M. D. Freeman, " " " . . .	2 18
Isaac Bemis, " " " . . .	1 98
Isaac Bemis, " " 1860, . . .	1 98
George Chapman, " " " . . .	1 98
John Abbott, " " " . . .	1 98

Amount carried forward, \$315 42

	<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$315 42
John Brown,	abatement of tax, 1857, .	1 50
Daniel Barrett,	" " " .	1 50
J. Q. Harrington,	" " " .	1 50
Royal Swett,	" " " .	1 50
Michael Wayland,	" " " .	1 50
Simeon W. Brown, posts for burial ground, .		9 00
John Coburn, lamps for library, .		3 00
Town of Shrewsbury, G. W. Leadbetter, bills and cost, .		42 00
O. Ellsworth, books for schools, .		5 28
Parker M. Brown, damage to sleigh, .		55
Abijah Gregory, painting posts, .		4 52
For distributing reports, .		1 50
Weston Town Library, .		60 00
Theodore Jones, sundry items, as per bill, .		9 05
Thomas B. Jones, labor and paint, .		9 78
George W. Cutting & Son, sundries, as per bill, .		33 98
Cleaning Town Hall, .		2 50
" High School room, .		1 50
J. M. Hewes, school blanks, .		7 25
Discounts on taxes collected prior to Oct. 1, .		364 38
" " " " Jan. 1, 1863,		41 08
		<hr/>
		\$918 29

FOR SERVICES OF TOWN OFFICERS.

Nathan Hagar, Town Clerk, and bill of items for the year 1861, .	29 50
C. H. Topliff, School Committee, .	25 00
Nathan Hagar, " " .	25 00
Edwin Hobbs, " " .	25 00
Alonzo S. Fiske, Assessor, .	48 88
Benjamin Peirce, Jr., " .	17 50
Abijah Coburn, " .	17 50
Joel Upham, liquor agent, .	30 00
James E. Keyes, care of town-hall, .	14 13
George W. Cutting, constable, .	6 00
Edward Coburn, " .	60
John Coburn, Librarian, .	45 00
Simeon W. Brown, Collector, 1861, .	5 33
Nathan Hagar, Town Clerk, and bill of items, 1862, .	36 69
Increase Leadbetter, Jr., Selectman, .	10 00
Alonzo S. Fiske, " .	10 00
Horace Hews, Collector and Treasurer, .	125 00
	<hr/>
	\$471 13

FOR VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Bounty to seventeen volunteers for three years, .	3,400 00
J. N. Smith, for obtaining volunteers, .	10 00
Joseph Smith, for " " .	20 00
Bounty to twenty-six volunteers for nine months, .	5,200 00
Town of Waltham, for Michael McBride, volunteer, .	100 00
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Amount carried forward, \$8,730 00

	<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$8,730 00
Harriet F. Stimpson, State aid,	65 60
Charlotte Floyd,	" "	45 60
Abby W. Tucker,	" "	30 00
Winnifred Fahey,	" "	63 71
Julia R. Ayer,	" "	11 00
Martha R. Smith,	" "	30 14
Mary Smith,	" "	30 14
David C. Smith,	" "	30 14
Elizabeth J. Patch,	" "	60 00
Mary Richardson,	" "	39 71
Sarah E. Rand,	" "	67 60
Ellen Teel,	" "	23 57
Rebecca Johnson,	" "	47 14
Ann Corliss,	" "	24 71
Martha Washburn,	" "	24 71
Caroline Powers,	" "	34 00
R. S. Warren, M. D., for examination of exempts,		23 00
C. H. Topliff, for recovering the body of Ralph A. Jones, bringing home the body of F. A. Hews, and for aid rendered sick and wounded soldiers,		273 68
Alonzo S. Fiske, recruiting officer,		96 63
Increase Leadbetter, " "		5 00
		<hr/> \$9,747 08

TOWN DEBT.

Weston Town Library,	. . . . .	1,000 00
" " "	. . . . .	300 00
Harvard Bank,	. . . . .	1,000 00
Benjamin Peirce,	. . . . .	1,100 00
Abigail Jones,	. . . . .	800 00
Theodore Jones, guardian,	. . . . .	1,000 00
Emily J. Coburn,	. . . . .	700 00
Marshall Jones,	. . . . .	300 00
First Parish in Weston,	. . . . .	300 00
A. H. Fiske,	. . . . .	5,900 00
Lemuel Smith,	. . . . .	150 00
Andrew C. Badger,	. . . . .	150 00
Henry A. Tucker,	. . . . .	100 00
F. A. Hews,	. . . . .	100 00
Ebenezer Tucker,	. . . . .	200 00
Elizabeth J. Patch,	. . . . .	100 00
Marshall L. Hews,	. . . . .	200 00
James A. Cooper,	. . . . .	150 00
C. E. Cutter,	. . . . .	200 00
Henry L. Brown,	. . . . .	125 00
Edwin Porter Upham,	. . . . .	100 00
Edmond L. Cutter,	. . . . .	200 00
George E. Rand,	. . . . .	175 00
Henry W. Day,	. . . . .	100 00
Sarah E. Rand,	. . . . .	100 00
Watkins W. Roberts,	. . . . .	185 00
		<hr/> \$14,735 00

CASH ASSETS.

Balance in the Treasury,	237 09	
Taxes uncollected, 1861,	25 56	
“ “ 1862,	363 70	
	<hr/>	\$626 35

OUTSTANDING ACCOUNT.

Interest on town debt to April 1st, about	244 00	
Bills due for which orders have not been granted, about,	80 00	
	<hr/>	\$324 00

SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY.

Town-house.
Six school-houses.
Alms-house and eighty acres of land, with stock and tools.
Six ploughs and scrapers, for use of Highway Surveyors.

VALUATION OF THE TOWN,

Real Estate,	\$541,416 00	
Personal Estate,	446,384 00	
	<hr/>	\$987,800 00

STATE, COUNTY AND TOWN TAX.

Amount of taxes assessed for 1862, was	\$8,175 94.
Rate per \$1,000, for State, County and Town tax, \$6.60	
“ “ “ for Highway tax, . . . . .	.87
Total, _____	\$7.47.

We the subscribers, Selectmen of Weston, have examined the foregoing account and find the same well vouched and rightly cast.

ALONZO S. FISKE, } *Selectmen of*
INCREASE LEADBETTER, JR. } *Weston.*

REPORT

OF THE

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

—❖—

THE Overseers of the Poor of Weston submit to the town the following report of the receipts and expenditures of the pauper establishment for the year ending March 1st, 1863.

RECEIPTS.

Cash received from sale of beef,	.	.	.	.	\$159.64
“ “ “ “ calves,	.	.	.	.	28.00
“ “ butter, eggs and poultry,	.	.	.	.	103.72
“ “ hay and straw,	.	.	.	.	88.74
“ “ potatoes,	.	.	.	.	14.75
“ “ sundry articles sold,	.	.	.	.	9.76
“ “ labor of Superintendent and team off					
farm,	.	.	.	.	34.61
“ “ assistance rendered Mary Martin,	.				1.00
“ “ Treasury,	.	.	.	.	595.16
					\$1,035.38

EXPENDITURES.

Cash paid Henry Wheeler, Superintendent, one year,					
ending March 1st, 1863,	.	.	.	.	200.00
“ labor,	.	.	.	.	36.18
“ E. Coburn, meat furnished,	.	.	.	.	89.79
“ clothing and bedding,	.	.	.	.	24.32
“ blacksmith's bills,	.	.	.	.	17.08
“ wheelwright's bills, ox cart and sundry re-					
pairs,	.	.	.	.	38.08
					\$405.45
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>					

	<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$405.45
Cash paid groceries and various articles furnished the		
establishment,		230.46
" J. W. Parmenter, for coal,		12.63
" for manure,		5.00
" " oxen,		77.50
" " horse,		50.00
" Dr. Hunt, for medical services,		20.00
" assistance furnished Amos Gleason, coffin		
for burial,		12.50
" Vermont Asylum for the Insane, for the		
support of William Fiske, one year, end-		
ing January 13th, 1863,		116.00
" the Town of Saugus, for aid furnished		
Charles A. Hobbs and family,		75.84
" Overseers for their services,		30.00
		<hr/>
		\$1,035.38

The number of paupers supported in the Almshouse at the present time is four, viz. :—

Elias Patch,	aged 74
William Patch,	" 44
Thomas Farwell,	" 58
Cooper Garfield,	" 88

William Fiske is supported by the town at the Insane Hospital, at Brattleboro'. Albert Luther Adams has been bound out for a term of years, and Anna Adams has been discharged from the Almshouse. The number of persons furnished with assistance out of the Almshouse during the past year is ten. Sixty-eight individuals have been temporarily relieved with food and lodging, and one has been conveyed to the State Almshouse at Tewksbury.

The amount of personal property on hand exceeds that of previous years.

Respectfully submitted by

ALONZO S. FISKE,	} <i>Overseers</i>
MARSHALL CUTTING,	
EDWARD COBURN,	
	<i>of</i>
	<i>Poor.</i>

R E P O R T

OF

THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE,

F o r 1 8 6 2 .



IN compliance with the requirement of the town, we make the following statement of the use and present condition of the WESTON TOWN LIBRARY:—

From its permanent fund of thirteen hundred dollars,
the Treasurer receives annual interest amount-
ing to \$78.00

Annual grant from the town, 60.00

Balance from last year, 12.61

Received for fines and for damage done to books, 2.00

Amount at our disposal, 152.61

The principal purchases of books were made in July
and February, amounting to 86.57

Covering paper and express charges, 2.20

Leaving a balance in the treasury of 63.84

The whole number of volumes on the shelves and ready
for circulation is 2050

The number added the past year, 128

The whole number and the additions of the past year are distributed among the several departments as follows:

Agriculture added 3; whole number, 113

Biography “ 6; “ “ 201

Instruction and Education added 4; “ “ 102

Fiction “ 31; “ “ 341

History “ 10; “ “ 256

Juvenile “ 29; “ “ 347

Miscellaneous added	14 ;	whole number,	130
Poetry added	;	“ “	95
Public Documents added	5 ;	“ “	52
Strictly Religious “	5 ;	“ “	144
Reviews and Magazines added	9 ;	“ “	96
Travels and Voyages “	12 ;	“ “	173

There are, besides, quite a number of volumes which have not been entered on the Catalogue. Some are duplicates and some are old books, valuable for the purposes of a library, but not thought to be of such immediate demand as to require haste in preparing them for circulation. They are, therefore, packed away for the time when we shall have a more commodious room, and our shelves shall not be so crowded as at present. The Committee believe that every department of the library is well provided with good and valuable books. It has been our design to supply it largely with the best histories and biographies, and all interesting books of recent travels and voyages. We have made generous selections of essays, and speeches, and letters and books of a general character. The juvenile department has also received particular attention, and is believed to be well filled with choice reading for our youthful readers. In fiction, considering the number of volumes published, we have purchased but sparingly, and only the best works of the imagination.

The whole number of books taken from the library the past year, as reported by the librarian, is 5604. This would give an average of something over 100 volumes, lent every day the library has been open, and a slight increase over the number in circulation the last year, showing that, notwithstanding the unprecedented attention which the daily newspaper has demanded, and notwithstanding from seventy-five to one hundred of our young men, who in previous years have largely availed themselves of the advantages of the library, yet the interest in it has not diminished, but it has established itself as one of our most useful institutions.

Donations of books have been made by Hon. Charles Sumner, Hon. Charles R. Train, and Charles Jones, Esq.

At the annual inspection of books in April the Committee laid aside forty-six that needed rebinding, and two or three were too much worn to be preserved. They found some books that bore the marks of harsh usage. Some were defaced and injured by pencil marks upon the leaves. If persons who do not value the library enough to prevent them from marring and defacing the books would be kind enough not to use it at all, they would confer a favor on the community, who not only prize a good book, but are pained to see that it has been wantonly injured. The librarian cannot always examine the books when they are returned to him; and when he discovers the damage, he is unable, frequently, to say who had possession of the books when they were injured. Those who find books delivered to them defaced, are requested to communicate the fact to the librarian, that he may be able more frequently to assess the damage on the guilty party. We are persuaded, also, that, with more careful usage, the bill for rebinding might be sensibly diminished.

The following sums have been paid from the town treasury the past year, in addition to the interest on the fund:

To Charles A. Brackett, for rebinding books,	. \$11.50
To appropriation for books,	. . . . 60.00
To John Coburn, librarian,	. . . . 45.00
To fuel and lights, (estimated),	. . . . 3.50
To expenses of Library Committee,	. . . . 4.00

Whole amount, \$124.00

The Committee have purposely reserved for another year a large share of the interest which has accrued the past year, and in consideration of the very heavy taxes which the present war renders inevitable, they would recommend that there be paid from the town treasury the ensuing year, in addition to the interest on the fund, but fifty dollars.

OTIS E. HUNT,	} <i>Library</i>
CALVIN H. TOPLIFF,	
NAHUM SMITH,	

Committee.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY TREASURER.

THE undersigned, Treasurer of Weston Town Library, herewith submits his account of Receipts and Expenditures for the year ending this day.

HORACE HEWS.

WESTON, MARCH 31, 1863.

1862.	DR.	
April 1.	Balance from former account, . . .	\$12.61
	Town of Weston, interest, . . .	30.00
	“ “ “ “ . . .	9.00
	Appropriation of Town for Library, . .	60.00
	Town of Weston, interest, . . .	30.00
	“ “ “ “ . . .	9.00
	Received for fines, . . .	2.00
		<hr/>
		\$152.61

	CR.	
	Paid Crosby & Nichols, for books, . .	\$12.00
	“ “ “ “ . .	51.36
	“ A. Williams & Co., “ . .	8.04
	“ W. A. Piper & Co., “ . .	6.12
	“ Crosby & Nichols, “ . .	11.25
	Balance, . . .	63.84
		<hr/>
		\$152.61

Investments.

Town of Weston, “ Merriam Fund,” .	\$1,000.00
“ “ “ bequest of Isaac Fiske,	
Esq., . , .	300.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,300.00

R E P O R T

OF

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

WITH a sense of fidelity to the town, whose educational interests have been confided to us, the Committee submit the following

R E P O R T .

The citizens of Weston have been often complimented by strangers passing our streets, for the neat and tasteful appearance of our school-houses, and the play-grounds connected with them. So appropriate is the design of the buildings, and so convenient the arrangement, that other towns in the Commonwealth have modelled after them, and, in one instance, at least, drafts of them have been sent to a neighboring State. They are not costly houses, nor are they so devoid of beauty, as is the case with many country school-houses, as to give the impression that the only thing thought of in the construction was to secure a room that would contain from thirty to sixty pupils. Kept as they are, in good order, and the grounds adorned with shade trees and shrubs and flowers, tended and cultivated by the scholars, they have an air of cheerfulness that attracts the attention of the stranger. We are gratified to be able to record the fact, that the people wish to have the schools within made to correspond to the attractive appearance of the school-houses. They give to the instruction of our youth a steady and generous support. While on the one hand there is no disposition to make a pet of our schools, and lavish money upon them for a show or a name, on the

other hand there is no niggardness, but whatever is believed to be necessary for the thorough and careful education of our children is cheerfully granted.

In our report one year ago the Committee were reluctantly forced to the necessity of asking for a slight increase of the school appropriation, in order to make the High School a yearly school. We could defend it as it had been conducted hitherto, but we were aware that it had not fully met the wishes and expectations of the community, and we were satisfied that it would be no more than moderately successful so long as it should be continued but a part of the year. It was subject to a constant change of teachers, and the Committee were obliged to make a selection of that class who were subject to frequent change, because they could not establish themselves permanently, or from that class who do not regard teaching as their sole employment. The increase asked was placed at our disposal, and we believe that no money expended by the town for any purpose whatever has brought a larger or more speedy return for the outlay. It has given us a school which has been quite successful thus far, and in which, we believe, our expectations will be fully realized.

The Committee were fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Benjamin F. Morrison, a gentleman of excellent qualifications and of long and large experience in the conduct of schools of the highest grade of public schools in the Commonwealth. The school has been under his charge two terms, together making twenty-six weeks,—a sufficient time to establish among us his character as a teacher, and to evince his adaptation to the school. He merits the highest respect and esteem of the community for his courtesy, his scholarship and his fidelity. The public examination, which occurred on the 20th of March, was quite fully attended by the friends of the school, who expressed their pleasure in its appearance and in the evidences of its progress. We are satisfied that it has now fully started on a most prosperous career, and hope nothing will occur to impede its progress.

The High School, in our opinion, forms an indispensable part of our school system, and though it could be dispensed with without serious detriment to the district schools,—which is an impossi-

bility,—yet the expediency of maintaining it could not be called in question. We have in our families children enough of suitable age and attainments to make a large school. They need the provision which our High School offers, and eagerly avail themselves of it. It is by far the most economical way in which they can be instructed.

The Committee do not deem that an extended report is called for in regard to the district schools. All the teachers of last year have been retained in their respective places, and some of them have had several years experience in their schools. In former reports we have directed attention to the character and condition which these teachers have given to their schools. From various causes, a school, under the care of the same teacher, may be more prosperous one term than another. But we are not sure that the actual progress of a school is the just measure of a teacher's labor or fidelity. Influences not within her control may have operated to the detriment of the school, or she may have had a class of scholars that require more than a single term to bring out the results of faithful and patient labor. From whatever causes, we think there has not been so great uniformity in the progress of the district schools the past year as was manifested the previous year, but, on the whole, more than an average measure of success has been reached. Not every teacher, nor every good teacher, is adapted to a particular school. Some are remarkably successful with advanced scholars, but lack the ability to interest children. Comparatively few have the ready tact to excite and rightly direct the early thoughts of children. Few are sufficiently qualified to commence with the alphabet of instruction and give the child its rudimental lessons—plant the seeds of its intellectual life. We need for our youngest scholars the very finest and best qualities of instruction and character. The day is past and never to return in which it was thought that almost any one would answer to teach young children. Of no class of teachers are qualifications which fit them for their labor so imperatively demanded as of this class. The teacher must have judgment, and care, and patience, and fruitfulness in the invention of means to keep the little ones intrusted to her care interested in some exercise that shall be useful to them.

What is put into the first of life is put into the whole of life. Habits of thought and study are early formed. Experience may do something towards qualifying a teacher, and it is worth far more to some than to others. It gives increased value to the services of some, while others only learn to do their work more easily. Some increase their qualifications by the diligent use of all the the aids offered to their profession, and others seem to have reached the point at which improvement is not to be expected.

The sum granted for schools last year was . . . \$1,750.00
Received from the State School Fund 46.08

The Committee have expended this sum as follows :—

Salary of High School teacher \$500.00
Salaries of female teachers 1085.00
Paid for fuel 153.08
For care of rooms and making fires 58.00

The number of persons between the ages of five and fifteen years, as registered by the Assessors, May 1, 1861, . . . 233
Whole number of scholars connected with the schools the first term, (the High School not being in session), . . . 192
Whole number of scholars the second term, . . . 241
Whole number of scholars the third term, . . . 252

Per centage of average attendance for the year in the several schools and the average whole number of scholars are as follows :

High School : whole number, 50 ; per centage of attendance, 92
School No. 3 : “ “ 19 ; “ “ 92
School No. 4 : “ “ 57 ; “ “ 90
School No. 6 : “ “ 25 ; “ “ 84
School No. 5 : “ “ 21 ; “ “ 82
School No. 1 : “ “ 42 ; “ “ 82
School No. 2 : “ “ 22 ; “ “ 78

Mean average attendance of all the schools, 86

The best attendance for a single term was the Winter term of School No. 4, which was 95 per cent.

The number of scholars whose attendance was perfect for one term is 49

Number whose attendance was perfect two terms, . . . 15
 Number whose attendance was perfect for the year, . . . 4

Three of whom, viz.: Arabell M. Dunn, Alphonso H. Dunn, and Lavinia I. Dunn belong to School No. 3, and Winslow L. Leadbetter belongs to School No. 6.

Whole number of times scholars were tardy was . . . 543

On the whole, the schools have made a little improvement the past year upon the previous, both in constancy and punctuality. Last year we reported but one school that exceeded 90 per cent. of the whole number in attendance; this year there are three. Last year two were below 80; this year but one; and the whole gain is about three per cent.

An average of 157 scholars per term have had no tardy marks, while the tardinesses have been diminished 300, nearly. But it is evident that with 543 from not more than 100 scholars,—for all the tardiness is chargeable to about 100 scholars,—there is room for improvement the ensuing year.

The school-houses are in such condition that a small sum will suffice for ordinary repairs. A part of the houses, either from the faulty arrangement of the funnels, or the imperfect construction of the chimnies, or else because they have not been properly taken care of, have given the schools some inconvenience from smoke and creosote, and will eventually render a change of some kind, in the matter of warming, necessary; but the Committee are not prepared at present to make any recommendation.

To maintain the schools with efficiency for three terms of twelve weeks each, the same appropriation will be needed as was made last year. If, however, the town judge that retrenchment must fall upon the school appropriation as well as upon other expenses of the town, the Committee would recommend that whatever reduction is made should be taken from the part expended on the district schools. Inexperienced teachers, at less wages, could be employed in some of the schools with less detriment than in others.

But is it expedient to pursue such a course? No question needs more mature consideration before action than this: whether the expenses of the town shall be diminished by taking from our children any of the means provided for their education. Will it be

wise to shorten their school-days ? They are in school now but about two-thirds of the time. Will it be wise to give them inferior teachers for the sake of saving a few dollars to the treasury ? Diminishing the grant for schools means reducing wages, and reducing wages implies the exchange of superior for inferior teachers. The period of education is brief to the child. What he loses is lost for a lifetime. The interests of two hundred and fifty children are dependent upon the provision this town makes for their education. Every one of these is to be an active agent, prepared by the instruction thus furnished to exert an influence on the community. Shall they be so moulded in their moral and intellectual character as to fit them to transmit unimpaired the noble inheritance bequeathed to us ? Or shall we suffer them to be degraded by ignorance and rendered powerless and miserable by vice, the usual companion of ignorance.

The year of the High School does not close till July, as it did not commence till the second term of last year, and it would be better if a similar arrangement could be made in regard to the close of the other schools ; that is, to have the financial year close the 1st of July rather than as now, the 1st of April. Now the Committee contract with teachers, and give directions to them to commence their schools before any provision is made by the town for them. If the town, at the April meeting, at which time money is usually granted for schools, should see fit greatly to diminish the grant of the previous year, it might occasion serious inconvenience and destroy the plans of the Committee. If, however, the financial year for schools should be made to close in July, ample time would be afforded to the Committee to make their plans conform to the expressed wishes of the town. By such an arrangement the payment of the first quarter's school would not fall due till after money had been collected from taxes, whereas now it has to be paid by a temporary loan.

CALVIN H. TOPLIFF,	}	<i>School Committee.</i>
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